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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 002310

SIPDIS

STATE PASS AIT/W

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: NO PROGRESS ON CROSS-PARTY RECONCILIATION

REF: TAIPEI 02167

Classified By: AIT Director Douglas Paal, Reason(s): 1.4 (B/D)

1. (C) Summary: Legislative Yuan (LY) President Wang Jin-pyng told AIT on May 25 that he has seen no improvement on the state of cross-party relations since his May 13 meeting with the AIT Director. Wang said that he has met with People First Party (PFP) Chairman James Soong since the latter returned from the PRC, but Soong adamantly held to his position that there would be no negotiation on the Special Defense Procurement Budget until Chen Shui-bian publicly apologizes for his criticisms of Soong. While the Pan-Blue controlled LY Procedure Committee once again on May 24 blocked the Special Defense Procurement Budget from being placed on the agenda, Wang told AIT that he is working extremely hard to achieve cross-party consensus on the possibility for a extraordinary summer session, during which time the LY would have another chance to consider the Special Budget. Wang also said that he has not seen any progress on negotiations for a meeting between President Chen and KMT Chairman Lien Chan. While pointing out that negotiations have been suspended pending Presidential Office Secretary General Yu Shyi-kun's return from the U.S., Wang said that he did not believe the DPP is interested in such a meeting. End Summary.

For Want of an Apology

2. (C) LY President Wang Jin-pyng told AIT on May 25 that he has seen no progress on the prospects for cross-party reconciliation in Taiwan since May 13, when he met with the AIT Director (RefTel). Wang reported that he met with PFP Chairman James Soong after Soong returned from the PRC. Wang said that Soong continues to hold adamantly to the PFP public statement that there will be no negotiations on any legislation until President Chen Shui-bian apologizes for his accusation that Soong had met with PRC Taiwan Affairs Office Director Chen Yunlin in the United States. PFP Legislator Daniel Hwang (Yih-jiau) confirmed to AIT that a public apology by President Chen is necessary for future DPP-PFP cooperation. Hwang insisted that President Chen must give the PFP some sort of face-saving path back to the negotiation table.

3. (C) In the May 24 LY Procedure Committee, KMT and PFP once again blocked the Special Defense Procurement Budget from being placed on the LY agenda for the current session ending at the month-end. Wang told AIT that he had anticipated this result because there has to date been no actual cross-party negotiation on the Special Budget. He said, however, that he is working extremely hard to gain consensus approval for an extraordinary session this summer, so there is a possibility the LY could still consider the Special Budget by mid-year. PFP Legislator Hwang, however, told AIT that the PFP opposes a summer session, arguing that the Pan-Green has pushed for an extraordinary session every year, thus negating the special nature of such sessions.

Post-PRC Visit Chen-Lien Meeting?

4. (C) Wang told AIT that he has not seen any progress on arranging a meeting between President Chen and KMT Chairman Lien Chan. Explaining that negotiations for a meeting would normally be conducted by KMT Secretary General Lin Fong-cheng and Presidential Office Secretary General Yu Shyi-kun, Wang said all such negotiations have been suspended pending Yu's return from his May 15-24 visit to the United States. Wang reiterated his May 13 observation to the Director that, despite his public statements that he has not ruled out the possibility of a meeting with President Chen, privately, Chairman Lien still has very negative feelings toward Chen. Lien, Wang said, still refuses to call Chen "President," or even use Chen's popular nickname "A-bian." He noted that during Lien's telephone conversation with Chen prior to Lien's departure for Mainland China, Lien addressed Chen in Taiwanese as "Brother Shui-bian," what one would call a fellow politician.

5. (C) Wang, however, was doubtful that Chen Shui-bian himself is really interested in meeting Lien. Chen understands perfectly well, Wang explained, Lien's

motivations for wanting to see him -- to ask the DPP government to implement the KMT achievements from its PRC visit. Rather, Wang continued, Chen may have concluded that he has no incentive to meet Lien. Wang described Chen as a narrow-minded politician who cannot see beyond his own self-interest for the good of Taiwan. Wang also dismissed as "meaningless" Premier Frank Hsieh's May 20 statement welcoming the PRC decision to allow Mainland Chinese tourists to visit Taiwan and proclaiming Taiwan's intention to allow daily 1,000 Mainland Chinese visitors for ten-day tours. Rather, Wang argued, the DPP will insist on official government negotiations on the PRC proposal, a condition the DPP knows will be an automatic deal breaker for the PRC. In addition, Wang claimed the DPP government has been obstructing KMT efforts to send members of the Provincial Farmer's Association to the PRC for further talks on the PRC's proposed tariff-free import of Taiwan fruit.

PAAL